

other; a sports program that doesn't isolate typical and special needs children, but integrates them seamlessly into group activities. Both communities benefit from the interaction. Russ has seen that success in his own children as well as the many families who have participated. What began with 5 children has grown into a blossoming effort with 250 young soccer players.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I bring Russell Ewell's E-Soccer program to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. He has created a shining example of how one man's idea can alter the lives of many for the better.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 816
CONGRATULATING THE COLORADO
ROCKIES ON WINNING THE
NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
AND PLAYING IN THE 2007
WORLD SERIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the Colorado Rockies on their National League Championship and first-ever franchise appearance in the World Series. The Rockies defied the odds this year by making it to the World Series, capturing the best hopes of Coloradans and giving us all a reason to cheer for their success. Despite a tough loss to a great team in the Boston Red Sox, we remain proud of the Rockies' efforts and astonished at their meteoric rise to the top of the National League.

Toward the close of the season, the Rockies were the underdogs in the National League pennant race. The challenge of making the playoffs seemed as large and daunting as the mountain range for which the Rockies were named, but the team maintained an optimism and competitive spirit that kept them alive long after commentators had written them off. Winning 21 of their last 22 games prior to the World Series—an unprecedented feat in baseball history—the Rockies rolled over expectations and swept the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NLCS.

The World Series proved to be a bigger challenge than the Rockies could surmount, and they lost in four games to a very talented Red Sox team. Despite the losses, the Rockies carried themselves with dignity and true sportsmanship, giving Coloradans something to be proud of. As the father of two young athletes I can say that the way the Rockies carried themselves is a tremendous example for our young people. We would have loved to have seen the Rockies bring home a victory this year, but, as the Red Sox' Manny Ramirez said during the ALCS, there's always next year. I know I am not alone in looking forward to watching some great Rockies baseball in the future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Colorado Rockies on a great season and in thanking them for serving as great examples of professional athletes practicing sportsmanship.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MIKE
BIONDI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my good friend, Mike Biondi, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family after his passing last night at the age of 50. Mike's sudden and tragic passing came as a great shock to me, as I had planned to see him early next week, and I hope that we can do as good of a job remembering Mike as he did living an outstanding life that had a positive impact on so many across the country.

Mike was a founding partner at Wasserstein Perella & Co., and rose to become chairman and CEO. I had the honor of working with Mike at Wasserstein, and I am privileged to have been able to call him a friend. Mike took me under his wing during my time at Wasserstein and became my mentor.

While working as an investment banker at Wasserstein Perella & Co., Mike helped establish Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, one of the Nation's largest electric utilities. Mike could literally take credit for helping to keep Chicagoans warm during our coldest winters.

Mike joined First Boston's mergers and acquisitions team after serving as an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He spent the past 4 years at Lazard LLC, where he served as cochairman of investment banking. No matter where he worked, Mike was held in high esteem and widely recognized for his intellectual acumen, wisdom and integrity.

Mike graduated from Dartmouth University where he played on the baseball team. He also received graduate degrees from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Wharton business school. Mike continued to be active with the Dartmouth community and co-chaired the Dartmouth College Fund Committee with his wife Cynthia.

No matter where he went—Dartmouth, Penn, Lazard, Wasserstein—Mike had a profound effect on people. He was not just my mentor or the mentor for others at his firms, but he was also a role model for the people whose lives he touched and a mentor to students both during his time on campus and as an alumnus.

Madam Speaker, Mike was a titan in his field, and a tremendous human being. He is survived by his wife Cynthia, his four sons, Michael Jr., James, William, and Cameron, and his two brothers, Frank and Robert. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to his family. We will all miss Mike, and I know that I will never forget the lessons he taught me both in business and in life.

DOING MORE THAN TALKING
ABOUT PHYSICAL FITNESS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, we are all well acquainted with the Mark Twain quote, "Everyone talks about the weather but nobody

does anything about it." I think the 21st century equivalent of Mr. Twain's words might be, "Everyone talks about physical fitness but far too few do anything about it."

There is strong evidence that increased physical fitness not only benefits the individual, but our society and our economy as well. Increased physical fitness not only reduces the risk of heart disease but it also reduces the risk of developing diabetes and can help control Type II Diabetes.

Additionally, physical fitness can help older adults build stronger bones and develop muscle; thereby lessening the severity of any fall. Physical fitness also increases worker productivity, contributes to lower workplace absenteeism and improves mental health. A physically fit society also lowers Federal spending to combat diseases like heart disease or hypertension that affect so many of our Medicaid patients.

The importance of physical activity as a benefit to all was recently highlighted by a new study on the economic burden of chronic disease, authored by the Milken Institute. Its findings are stark—the incidence and costs of chronic disease are rising rapidly. If nothing is done to increase the level of fitness in the Nation, the costs of treating the associated diseases will grow by 42 percent over the next decade.

According to the Milken Institute study, we need to move our health care system to one that provides incentives for prevention, wellness and focuses on achieving a healthy body weight. It is evident that an increased amount of physical fitness contributes materially to these goals. Furthermore, as Members of Congress, we should be looking at how to best effectively improve physical fitness.

One way is to remove any inequities under Federal law that prevents the promotion of physical fitness. Two inequities currently exist. First, gym memberships that employees provide for off-site facilities are taxable to the employee as a benefit while those in-house are not—a clear disincentive for both companies and individuals to work fitness into the work day. Second, flexible spending accounts can not be used for physical fitness equipment or activities. Thus, we have a situation where you can use a flexible spending account on medicines to treat illnesses such as diabetes but the funds can not be used to increase the opportunity to exercise, which often controls and sometimes can prevent disease.

In both cases, legislation is currently pending before the Ways and Means Committee to correct these inequities. I urge the members of the Committee and its leadership to consider them expeditiously and to disprove Mark Twain's reworked adage.

BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK,
FOUNDER OF SIKHISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, this month marks the 538th birthday of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion. As you may know, Guru Nanak was born in 1469 in what is now West Punjab. Every year, Sikhs from around the world gather in Nankana Sahib, where

Guru Nanak was born, to honor him. Let me take this opportunity to honor Guru Nanak also and to congratulate the Sikhs of the world on this important occasion.

Guru Nanak stood up to tyranny. He worked to liberate his people from the tyranny of the Moghul ruler Babar. Today, Sikhs suffer under oppression from Hindu rulers who have murdered over a quarter of a million of them and hold more than 52,000 as political prisoners. They also killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. This oppression is no more acceptable than the oppression of Guru Nanak's time.

Sikhs can honor Guru Nanak by standing up to India to secure their own freedom and helping the other minorities secure theirs too. Freedom is the longing of every human heart. God intends for everyone to be free.

We are the primary power in today's world, Madam Speaker. We can use our influence to support the cause of freedom in South Asia. By doing so, we can honor Guru Nanak and all those who have worked for freedom around the world.

The time has come to let India know that if it is going to proclaim itself a democracy, it must act like one. That means allowing everyone, including minorities, to exercise their most basic human rights. Freedom is the birthright of all people. If India will not do so, it should be placed back on the list of nations that do not respect religious freedom, as it was at one time, and the appropriate sanctions should be imposed. In addition, unless India is willing to live up to its democratic principles, we should stop our aid to India in all forms.

Acting like a democracy also means recognizing the right of self-determination. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. Where is the vote on the status of Kashmir that India promised a mere 59 years ago? Does it take 59 years to set up a free and fair vote? Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, declared itself independent 20 years ago. Where is the vote on its status? And what of the Nagas and all the people simply seeking the freedom to rule themselves? The United States carries a lot of weight in the world. If we are serious about spreading democracy, we should work to bring about self-determination for all the peoples and nations of the subcontinent. That would help all people shake off oppression and live in dignity and prosperity, and it is the right thing to do.

Madam Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's open letter regarding the birthday of Guru Nanak into the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KHALSA PANTH ON THE PARKASH DEVAS OF GURU NANAK

DEAR KHALSA PANTH: As you know, this month marks the birthday (Parkash Devas) of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. Congratulations to the Sikh Nation on this momentous occasion.

This year marks the 538th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak. He was born in 1469 and departed this world for his heavenly abode in 1539. Guru Nanak was the founder of the Sikh religion. ("Mary Sikha Jagat Witch Nanak Nirmal Panth Chalaya.") On November 24 in Nankana Sahib, now in West Punjab, Sikhs from around the world will celebrate this occasion. Last year, over 10,000 showed up for the celebration. Crowds enthusiastically raised slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad!" The Sangat showed great devotion and reverence on this pious occasion.

Guru Nanak confronted Babar, the Moghul ruler of the time and called him a Jabbar (oppressor) and spoke out against the tyranny of the rulers of that time. He was even imprisoned by Babar, along with his followers. Today, Sikhs face similar oppression by the Hindu rulers of India.

Just as Guru Nanak spoke out against the Moghul tyrant Babar, we must work to free our Sikh brothers and sisters from the oppression of the Brahmins. It is incumbent on us to achieve freedom for Khalistan, as is our birthright. As former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh has said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

India has murdered over 250,000 of our Sikh brothers and sisters, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of other minorities. More than 52,000 Sikhs (and tens of thousands of other minorities) are being held as political prisoners. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs.

A MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." Guru Nanak did not tolerate oppression; he struggled against it wherever it reared its ugly head. We must be good followers of Guru Nanak by doing the same today. India is also destroying Sikhs economically. The Indian government fixes the price for fertilizer very high and the price for produce very low so Sikh farmers can't even get the cost of production for their crops. This year it fixed the wheat price at Rs 750 per quintal. Even Badal demanded Rs 1000 per quintal. If Punjab farmers could sell their produce across the border in Pakistan and the Middle East, they could easily get close to Rs 1,500 per quintal and would be able to make a living.

India diverts Punjab's river water, its natural resource, to neighboring Haryana and Rajasthan without any compensation. India seeks to destroy the Sikh Nation religiously, economically, and politically. Guru Nanak would not permit them to do so. We must show the spirit of Guru Nanak and reclaim our sovereignty.

Guru Nanak travelled extensively, to the Middle East, where he visited Baghdad, and throughout India, along with his two companions, one Hindu, one Muslim. He spread his message of truthfulness, respect for the rights of individuals, earning an honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to Almighty God. He was revered by Hindus and Muslims alike. When he left this world, his body was not found. The sheet covering his body was torn in two. The Hindus cremated it and the Muslims buried it, each according to their customs. Overcoming oppression in today's world will earn the Sikhs of today similar respect. We must not accept India's tyrannical rule over our homeland.

Guru Nanak is remembered as Baba Nanak Shah Faqir, Hindu Da Guru, Mussleman Da Pir. He preached the equality of the entire human race, including gender equality. To this day, these are cornerstones of the Sikh religion. But our Sikh brethren in Punjab, Khalistan do not get to experience equality. Instead, they are subjected to the worst kind of oppression by the Indian regime.

India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is about to separate from India. As L.K. Advani said, "If Kashmir goes, India goes." History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugo-

slavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. Montenegro, which has less than a million people, has become a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations. Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent. The sooner the better.

Guru Nanak gave the Sikhs our identity. We can honor him by reclaiming the freedom that is our birthright: "Raj Bina Na Dharam Chaley Hain, Dharam Bina Sab Dale Male Hain." ("Without political power, a religion cannot flourish and without religion, people are oppressed and persecuted.") Let us stand up for the ideals of Guru Nanak and defend the integrity of the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH

President,

Council of Khalistan.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A MODELING AND SIMULATION GRANT PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will establish a grant program at the U.S. Department of Education to encourage and enhance the study of Modeling and Simulation at institutions of higher education.

Modeling and Simulation has become an essential component in ensuring that we meet both the defense and domestic challenges of the 21st century. Modeling and Simulation technology allows us to easily and effectively sharpen the tools, procedures, and decisions needed to address difficult and complex problems.

Earlier this year, this body passed by voice vote House Resolution 487, introduced by my Virginia colleague Congressman RANDY FORBES of Virginia, which recognized Modeling and Simulation as a national critical technology.

This critical technology allows us to build and develop computer models of complex systems—whether a car, an airplane, an entire battlefield, or even a major city's evacuation plan—to see how certain actions will affect the end result. These simulations help us develop better and practical analogies of real world situations. Modeling and Simulation is a rapidly expanding field and we must ensure that the United States maintains its competitive edge in this field by expanding Modeling and Simulation programs at our institutions of higher education.

The bill that I am introducing today will ensure that this national critical technology is expanded at our Nation's colleges and universities. Specifically, the bill will establish a grant program for colleges and universities to enhance and improve already established Modeling and Simulation programs. Colleges and universities without Modeling and Simulation